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HANDSOME VICTORY FOR MEN IN BLUE

Playing their 1st ODI since WC heartbreak, India beat South Africa by 8 wickets

SAI SUDHARSAN SHINES ON INDIA DEBUT

Ever since making a name for himself in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Premier League, B Sai Sudharsan has shown his class at every level. On Sunday, he continued the same on India debut, scoring a solid 55 from 43 balls. Along with Shreyas Iyer, he helped the team secure an eight-wicket victory against South Africa.

55* Sai Sudharsan's 55 n.o is the highest for an Indian batter on ODI debut in SA since Saba Karim's 55 in 1997

ARSHDEEP, AVESH RISE TO OCCASION

- Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan ran through South African top-order as the hosts were reduced to 58/7 in 13 overs
- The left-arm pacer took 5/37 while Avesh accounted for four wickets for 27 runs as they shared nine wickets between themselves. The hosts were eventually bundled out for 117 in 27.3 overs | PTI

200 LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY (BY BALLS REMAINING) FOR INDIA AGAINST SA IN SA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Police recover destroyed phones

Charges of evidence destruction added to FIR after recovery of phone parts from Raj

Parts of the burnt mobile phone recovered from Rajasthan on Sunday | ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi / Lucknow

DELHI Police on Sunday recovered fragments of the broken and burnt mobile phones used by the accused in the December 13 Parliament attack case from Nagaur in Rajasthan. Following this, the police added Section 201 of the IPC, which deals with destroying evidence of an offence, to the FIR against the accused.

Sources said sleuths of the Special Cell wing of the Delhi Police also brought the alleged mastermind Lalit Jha to Nagaur, where he stayed with the help of Mahesh Kumawat, who is also accused in the case. Jha showed the police the area where he had destroyed the mobile phones by crushing them and later setting them on fire.

According to police officials, Jha and Kumawat intentionally destroyed the mobile phones to hide technical evidence related to the case.

So far, police have arrested six persons — Jha, Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Shinde, Neelam Devi, and Mahesh Kumawat — for their alleged involvement in the Parliament security breach.

Police officials said they are perusing all the social media accounts of Jha after noticing some disturbing content in some of them. In a social media post in October, he had said: 'What India needs is a bomb' to fight 'tyranny, injustice and anarchy'.

Meanwhile, another team of Delhi Police sleuths reached Lucknow on Sunday to interrogate the relatives of Sagar Sharma. The police team also questioned the trader from whom Sharma is believed to have bought the special shoes to conceal the canisters. They are also checking if Sharma used the service of a cobbler to create the cavity in the shoes. The police had planned to bring Sharma to Lucknow but dropped the plan due to "law and order concerns", sources said.

BJP dragging Speaker to Parl breach issue: Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla wrote to all MPs informing them that he had constituted a high-powered committee to review all aspects of security in the Parliament complex, Congress MP Manickam Tagore said the security breach is the failure of Union home minister Amit Shah and that the BJP shouldn't drag the Speaker into the issue. Tagore is among the 14 MPs suspended last week by the Lok Sabha Speaker for allegedly disrupting House proceedings. Speaking to this newspaper, Tagore said INDIA alliance partners will stick to the demand of a statement from the home minister in both Houses of Parliament. "Parliament security breach is not the responsibility of the Speaker. Delhi police reports to Amit Shah and it is the failure of the intelligence agencies. The fact that UAPA charges have been slapped on those five people demonstrates that it's an extremely serious matter. Why is the Speaker taking the onus on him?" asked Tagore.

With the escalation of the political face-off between the government and the opposition parties, Birla had written to all MPs on Saturday assuring them he had set up a high-powered panel to conduct an in-depth probe into the breach and formulate a concrete action plan to prevent such incidents in the future. Birla also clarified that the suspension of 14 MPs was not linked to the security breach.

"The Speaker says we are not suspended on the issue of the security breach. Then what is it? If the speaker wants to get into the politics of the ruling establishment, it is very unfortunate. In the past also, home ministers and PMs have made statements in the House when such situations arose," Tagore said.

Tagore also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making his first remarks on the Parliament security breach during a media interview on Sunday. Modi said that the incident was very serious and that a detailed probe should be conducted.

"The PM and the HM will speak to TV channels. However, they will not come to Parliament and make a statement. They are denigrating and insulting Parliament," he said, adding that the INDIA alliance will discuss it at Monday's meeting.

Students cleaning a septic tank at Morarji Desai Residential School at Yeluvahalli. The incident was reported on December 1

Students clean school septic tank; principal, teacher held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolar/Bengaluru

IN an inhuman act, students from seventh to ninth standards at Morarji Desai Residential School at Yeluvahalli in Kolar district were made to clean the septic tank on December 1. The incident came to light late on Saturday night after a photograph went viral.

School principal Bharathamma, teacher Muniyappa, hostel warden Manjunath and guest teacher Abhishek have been suspended after state Residential School Director Naveen Kumar and Joint Director of Social Welfare Department Srinivas visited the school. While Bharathamma and Muniyappa were arrested, the others are yet to be traced.

A case was registered against the four after Srinivas filed a complaint, said Kolar Superintendent of Police M Narayan. "I visited the school and spoke to the students. Deputy Superintendent of Police Mallesh has been deputed to conduct a detailed inquiry," he added.

As news spread, parents rushed to the school and expressed their displeasure at authorities. They said there is a lot of difference among teachers, and they would like to shift their wards to other schools.

Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah said that he has sought a detailed report on the incident and action will be taken based on it. Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa said strict action will be taken against the officials concerned, besides registering a criminal case. Senior officials have been sent to the school to investigate and report, he said. Home Minister G Parameshwara said a detailed investigation will be conducted.

It was just a few days ago that the social science teacher from the same school, Abhishek, had punished students for not preparing well for exams, and those photos too had gone viral.

Workers and local residents gather outside a manufacturing unit of Solar Industries at Bazargaon near Nagpur following a blast that killed nine workers | PTI

9 killed, 3 injured in blast at Nagpur explosives factory

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NINE people were killed and three others injured in a blast at an explosives manufacturing factory in Nagpur, Maharashtra on Sunday.

The incident happened in a cast booster unit of the plant operated by Solar Industries India Limited in the Bazaargaon area around 9 am. The police are yet to ascertain the cause of the blast and have sought the help of an expert, sources said.

The plant manufactures explosives used in the coal mining process. As per sources, the work of packaging the explosives was on when the blast occurred. Soon after the incident, a crowd of nearly 200 people, including local residents and relatives of those killed, blocked the entrance to the factory shouting slogans and demanding access to the premises so that they could see the bodies of their loved ones. The police soon dispersed them, but they later blocked the Amravati-Nagpur road outside the factory.

The Maharashtra government has announced compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the dead, the chief minister's office stated, adding that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has instructed authorities to provide timely and quality treatment to those injured. "The chief minister has expressed deep grief over the deaths in the explosion," the statement said.

> A tragic incident occurred at 9 am in building number HR-CPCH-2 (Mixing, Melting and Casting) in which nine workers lost their lives
>
> Ashish Srivastava, senior general manager, Solar Industries

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar alleged that over 5,000 people were working in unsafe conditions in the factory. "The probe should happen and the guilty should be punished," Wadettiwar added. He said the state government must give ₹50 lakh as compensation to the kin of those who had died.

JAISHANKAR GOES AFTER UNSC, COMPARES IT TO AN OLD CLUB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"THE UN Security Council is like an old club where there are a set of members who don't want to let go of the grip. They want to keep control over the club, not very keen to admit more members, not too keen to have their practices questioned. It is in a way a human failing, but I think it's harming the world because on key issues confronting the world, the UN is getting less and less effective," said External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar here on Sunday while taking a dig at UNSC for denying India a permanent seat.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar speaks at a leadership summit in Bengaluru on Sunday

But he expressed confidence that India will get the permanent seat as history is on its side. Interacting with the delegates at a leadership summit of Rotary International (RI), The Rotary Institute, he said the world has over 200 countries that want reforms which the UN should have realised.

"The global sentiment today is that a large number of countries are for reform. When the UN was founded there were about 50 countries. Imagine a business that has grown four times yet you don't want to change the original promoter of the business. It's not fair. I am sure it will happen, we will keep at it. I do believe that history is on our side," he said.

On BRICS, Jaishankar hoped that it will be expanded with six more members when it meets next time. "The world cannot be run by seven countries which are from one part or a continent. BRICS in a way is a message of diversity and independence, a natural expression of culture, economics and politics of the world," he said. P6

NORMS VIOLATED

Students, minor used to frisk KPSC test candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

A controversy erupted after students were allegedly used for frisking of candidates during the examination for the post of Junior Assistant Group C in Karnataka State Audits and Accounts Department by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) at a centre in Mangaluru on Sunday.

The exam was conducted at the Government Women's College at Balmatta in Mangaluru on Sunday. However, some of the candidates appearing for the exam alleged that untrained students, including a minor, from colleges around the city were used for screening the candidates while entering the exam hall and accused KPSC of conducting the exam in an unprofessional manner.

In the viral videos, some of the students, including a minor, are seen screening the candidates using metal detectors. The KPSC has instructed that mobile jammers, biometric face detection and body cameras should be used at exam centres to prevent malpractice and use of electronic devices. Some of the candidates, however, alleged that KPSC did not make proper arrangements and failed to adhere to the guidelines while conducting the exam. The exam centre supervisor said KPSC has outsourced an agency to conduct the exam. "Those engaged in the screening process were not from our college, but were outsourced by that agency," she said.

BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal criticised KPSC officials and posted on X, saying it shows how prepared KPSC is to conduct the examination.

Students, including a minor, frisking candidates appearing for the exam

EXPRESS READ

Jumbo tramples farmer to death in Harohalli

Bengaluru: A farmer lost his life after an elephant attacked him while he was going to his silk farm on Sunday. The incident happened at Harohallidoddi in Harohalli hobli of Kanakapura taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru at 5.30 am. The victim has been identified as Thimmegowda, aged 63 | P4

Heavy rain pounds southern TN districts

Chennai: Heavy rain under the influence of a cyclonic circulation lashed southern Tamil Nadu on Sunday, inundating several areas in districts, including Kanniyakumari. On Sunday, heavy rain lashed Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi districts affected normalcy | P5

FIR lodged against JSW chairman in rape case

Mumbai: Police have filed an FIR against the chairman of JSW Group Sajjan Jindal on a complaint by a woman accusing him of raping her. The alleged assault happened in January 2022 in Mumbai, she said. Jindal denied the allegations, calling them false and baseless | P8

B'gavi stripping case: Govt hands over probe to CID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

THE state government has ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to probe the incident of a woman stripped and assaulted in Belagavi on December 11.

The investigation officer, Additional Commissioner of Police Girish, will hand over the investigation files to the CID once officers arrive in Belagavi. CID DIG Sunil Kumar Meena will arrive in Belagavi shortly to start the investigation. The police team from Belagavi has collected all the information and evidence related and also listed out the action taken by the police so far in this case, police sources said.

France calls for lasting truce in Gaza

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WITH Israel showing no signs of ending its bombardment of Gaza anytime soon, France on Sunday pressed for an "immediate and durable" truce, with its top diplomat saying "too many civilians are being killed".

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna was in Tel Aviv to hold talks with her Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen and convey France's growing concerns over the situation in Gaza.

She also sought an explanation from Israel for its bombing of a residential building in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, which killed a French foreign ministry staffer. "We demand that all light be shed by the Israeli authorities on the circumstances of this bombing, as quickly as possible," she was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera. Colonna's statement comes as international pressure is mounting on Israel over its continuing attacks that, as per Gaza's Hamas-controlled health ministry, have killed nearly 19,000 people. Last week, US President Joe Biden warned Israel it is starting to lose global support. Meanwhile, CNN reported the US is planning to mount additional pressure with its defence secretary Llyod Austin planning to visit Tel Aviv next week to push Israeli officials to "define milestones for its war". P9